

For immediate release

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Washington, D.C. – Today, Congressman Sires announced allocations for critical Preparedness Grants awarded through the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency for Fiscal Year 2009. More than \$80 million was allocated in federal funding to assist state and local governments as well as private industry in strengthening community preparedness. Awards will be made on a rolling basis over the summer.

"New Jersey has the most dangerous two miles in America in terms of security threats," said Congressman Sires. "These grants are critical to our area and will go a long way towards making our communities safer and more protected."

The FY 2009 Preparedness Grants underline this effort by focusing on improving strategic planning and preparedness and measuring performance.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Grant Program –to improve emergency management and preparedness capabilities by supporting flexible, sustainable, secure and interoperable EOCs to address identified deficiencies and needs.

- \$1 million to Hudson County

- \$250,000 to Essex County

Intercity Bus Security Grant Program (IBSGP) – to assist operators of intercity and charter bus services to support security plans, facility security upgrades and vehicle and driver protection.

- \$1.3 million to Academy Express
- \$444,000 to Coach USA

Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP) – to protect critical transit infrastructure from terrorism.

- \$23.8 million to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
- \$5.5 million to the New Jersey Transit Corp.
- \$25 million to Amtrak

Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) – to protect critical port infrastructure from terrorism, enhance risk management capabilities to protect against non-conventional weapons; and to conduct training and exercises; and to support implementation of the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC).

- \$45 million to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

Buffer Zone Protection Program (BZPP) – to increase preparedness capabilities for safeguarding critical infrastructure sites and key resource assets, such as chemical facilities and nuclear power plants, through planning and equipment acquisition.

- \$3.6 million to New Jersey

Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP) – for planning, training, exercises and equipment to states to carry out initiatives identified in Statewide Communication Interoperability Plans, and improve interoperable emergency communications for responding to natural disasters and acts of terrorism.

- \$1.4 million to New Jersey

Driver's License Security Grant Program (DLSGP) – to prevent terrorism, reduce fraud and to improve the reliability and accuracy of personal identification documents that states and territories issue.- \$1.1 million to New Jersey

Further information on preparedness grant programs is available at www.dhs.gov and www.fema.gov/grants

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